

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device through a network, comprising:

5 acquiring means for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on said network from said external device;

10 system display controlling means for displaying, on a display section, a system condition of said peripheral device shared on said network together with an icon by a user interface on the basis of said device information acquired from said external device by said acquiring means;

15 instructing means for instructing the install of a driver for said peripheral device shared on said network in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling means; and

20 install controlling means for acquiring driver setting information instructed to be installed by said instructing means from said external device to execute the automatic install processing of said driver.

25 2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said instructing means can instruct the install of drivers for a plurality of peripheral devices shared on said network by one operation

instruction in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling means.

5 3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said instructing means instructs the install of said drivers for said plurality of peripheral devices under the control of a server icon, when an install instruction is issued selecting said
10 server ion in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling means.

15 4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said instructing means instructs the install of a driver for a selected peripheral device, when an install instruction is issued selecting a peripheral device icon and displaying said system condition by said system display controlling means.

20 5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising install shifting means for shifting to an install function provided by an OS, when said driver instructed to be installed by said
25 instructing means cannot be acquired from said external device.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising registering means for extracting the setting information of said driver which is to be installed by said install function provided by said OS and for registering the thus extracted setting information in an external device which is a management server through said network.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising registering means for extracting the setting information of said driver which is to be installed by said install controlling means and for registering the thus extracted setting information in an external device which is a management server through said network.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising driver information display controlling means for acquiring said registered setting information of said driver from said management server and for displaying the thus acquired setting information on said display section, in executing said install processing of said driver by said install controlling means.

25

9. An information processing method for communicating with an external device through a

network, comprising:

acquiring step for acquiring the device
information of a peripheral device shared on said
network from said external device;

5 system display controlling step for displaying, on
a display section, a system condition of said
peripheral device shared on said network together with
an icon by a user interface on the basis of said device
information acquired from said external device by said
10 acquiring step;

instructing step for instructing the install of a
driver for said peripheral device shared on said
network in said user interface having said system
condition displayed by said system display controlling
15 step; and

install controlling step for acquiring driver
setting information instructed to be installed by said
instructing step from said external device to execute
the automatic install processing of said driver.

20

10. The information processing method according
to claim 9, wherein said instructing step can instruct
the install of drivers for a plurality of peripheral
devices shared on said network by one operation
25 instruction in said user interface having said system
condition displayed by said system display controlling
step.

11. The information processing method according to claim 10, wherein said instructing step instructs the install of said drivers for said plurality of peripheral devices under the control of a server icon,
5 when an install instruction is issued selecting said server icon in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling step.

10 12. The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein said instructing step instructs the install of a driver for a selected peripheral device, when an install instruction is issued selecting a peripheral device icon and displaying said system
15 condition by said system display controlling step.

13. The information processing method according to claim 9, further comprising install shifting step for shifting to an install function provided by an OS,
20 when said driver instructed to be installed by said instructing step cannot be acquired from said external device.

14. The information processing method according to claim 13, further comprising registering step for
25 extracting the setting information of said driver which is to be installed by said install function provided by

said OS and for registering the thus extracted setting information in an external device which is a management server through said network.

5 15. The information processing method according to claim 9, further comprising registering step for extracting the setting information of said driver which is to be installed by said install controlling step and for registering the thus extracted setting information
10 in an external device which is a management server through said network.

 16. The information processing method according to claim 15, further comprising driver information
15 display controlling step for acquiring said registered setting information of said driver from said management server and for displaying the thus acquired setting information on said display section, in executing said install processing of said driver by said install
20 controlling step.

 17. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for communicating with an external device through a network, said program comprising:
25 acquiring step for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on said

network from said external device;

5 system display controlling step for displaying, on
a display section, a system condition of said
peripheral device shared on said network together with
an icon by a user interface on the basis of said device
information acquired from said external device by said
acquiring step;

10 instructing step for instructing the install of a
driver for said peripheral device shared on said
network in said user interface having said system
condition displayed by said system display controlling
step; and

15 install controlling step for acquiring driver
setting information instructed to be installed by said
instructing step from said external device to execute
the automatic install processing of said driver.

20 18. The computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 17, wherein said instructing step can instruct
the install of drivers for a plurality of peripheral
devices shared on said network by one operation
instruction in said user interface having said system
condition displayed by said system display controlling
step.

25

19. The computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 18, wherein said instructing step instructs

the install of said drivers for said plurality of peripheral devices under the control of a server icon, when an install instruction is issued selecting said server icon in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling step.

20. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, wherein said instructing step instructs the install of a driver for a selected peripheral device, when an install instruction is issued selecting a peripheral device icon and displaying said system condition by said system display controlling step.

21. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 17, further comprising install shifting step for shifting to an install function provided by an OS, when said driver instructed to be installed by said instructing step cannot be acquired from said external device.

22. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 21, further comprising registering step for extracting the setting information of said driver which is to be installed by said install function provided by said OS and for registering the thus extracted setting information in an external device which is a management

server through said network.

23. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 17, further comprising registering step for
5 extracting the setting information of said driver which is to be installed by said install controlling step and for registering the thus extracted setting information in an external device which is a management server through said network.

10 24. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 23, further comprising driver information display controlling step for acquiring said registered setting information of said driver from said management
15 server and for displaying the thus acquired setting information on said display section, in executing said install processing of said driver by said install controlling step.

20 25. A program for communicating with an external device through a network, comprising:

acquiring step for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on said network from said external device;

25 system display controlling step for displaying, on a display section, a system condition of said peripheral device shared on said network together with

an icon by a user interface on the basis of said device information acquired from said external device by said acquiring step;

5 instructing step for instructing the install of a driver for said peripheral device shared on said network in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling step; and

10 install controlling step for acquiring driver setting information instructed to be installed by said instructing step from said external device to execute the automatic install processing of said driver.

15 26. The program according to claim 25, wherein said instructing step can instruct the install of drivers for a plurality of peripheral devices shared on said network by one operation instruction in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling step.

20 27. The program according to claim 26, wherein said instructing step instructs the install of said drivers for said plurality of peripheral devices under the control of a server icon, when an install
25 instruction is issued selecting said server icon in said user interface having said system condition displayed by said system display controlling step.

28. The program according to claim 27, wherein
said instructing step instructs the install of a driver
for a selected peripheral device, when an install
instruction is issued selecting a peripheral device
5 icon and displaying said system condition by said
system display controlling step.

29. The program according to claim 25, further
comprising install shifting step for shifting to an
10 install function provided by an OS, when said driver
instructed to be installed by said instructing step
cannot be acquired from said external device.

30. The program according to claim 29, further
15 comprising registering step for extracting the setting
information of said driver which is to be installed by
said install function provided by said OS and for
registering the thus extracted setting information in
an external device which is a management server through
20 said network.

31. The program according to claim 25, further
comprising registering step for extracting the setting
information of said driver which is to be installed by
25 said install controlling step and for registering the
thus extracted setting information in an external
device which is a management server through said

network.

32. The program according to claim 31, further
comprising driver information display controlling step
5 for acquiring said registered setting information of
said driver from said management server and for
displaying the thus acquired setting information on
said display section, in executing said install
processing of said driver by said install controlling
10 step.

33. An information processing apparatus for
communicating with an external device through a
network, comprising:
15 device information acquiring means for acquiring
the device information of a peripheral device shared on
said network from said external device;

system display controlling means for displaying,
on a display section, an overall system condition of
20 said peripheral device shared on said network and a
system condition of a user network of a peripheral
device arbitrarily selected from said overall system
condition together with icons by a user interface in
such a manner that these conditions can be identified,
25 on the basis of said device information acquired from
said external device by said device information
acquiring means;

instructing means for instructing to register said peripheral device in said user network; and

install controlling means for executing the install processing of a driver for said peripheral device, when register of said peripheral device to said user network is newly instructed by said instructing means.

34. The information processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said system display controlling means dividedly displays a system window for displaying said overall system condition and a favorite window for displaying said system condition of said user network.

35. The information processing apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said favorite window has the icons of peripheral devices arranged around an icon of its own information processing apparatus.

36. The information processing apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said instructing means instructs the register of said peripheral device by effecting the movement of said icon between said system window and said favorite window which are dividedly displayed by said system displaying means.

37. The information processing apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising judging means for judging whether said driver setting information for a driver of said icon has been already registered in its own information processing apparatus during the movement of said icon by said instructing means, wherein

said install controlling means acquires said driver setting information which should be installed from said external device to execute the install processing of said driver, when it is determined by said judging means that said driver setting information has not been registered.

38. The information processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said install controlling means uses said registered driver setting information to execute said install processing of said driver, when it is determined by said judging means that said driver setting information has been already registered.

39. The information processing apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said system displaying means identifies the display mode of an icon regarding an installed device between said system window and said favorite window which are separately displayed after completion of install by said install controlling

means, and displays the thus identified display mode.

40. The information processing apparatus
according to claim 34, further comprising writing means
5 for writing positional information of an icon displayed
in said favorite window into storing means,

said first system displaying means arranging and
displaying said icon on the basis of said positional
information stored in said storing means.

10

41. The information processing apparatus
according to claim 36, wherein said instructing means
can instruct, by drag and drop, the movement of said
icon between said system window and said favorite
15 window which are dividedly displayed.

42. An information processing method for
communicating with an external device through a
network, comprising:

20 device information acquiring step for acquiring
the device information of a peripheral device shared on
said network from said external device;

system display controlling step for displaying, on
a display section, an overall system condition of said
25 peripheral device shared on said network and a system
condition of a user network of a peripheral device
arbitrarily selected from said overall system condition

together with icons by a user interface in such a manner that these conditions can be identified, on the basis of said device information acquired from said external device by said device information acquiring
5 step;

instructing step for instructing to register said peripheral device in said user network; and

install controlling step for executing the install processing of a driver for said peripheral device, when
10 register of said peripheral device to said user network is newly instructed by said instructing step.

43. The information processing method according to claim 42, wherein said system display controlling
15 step dividedly displays a system window for displaying said overall system condition and a favorite window for displaying said system condition of said user network.

44. The information processing method according to claim 43, wherein said favorite window has the icons
20 of peripheral devices arranged around an icon of its own information processing apparatus.

45. The information processing method according to claim 43, wherein said instructing step instructs
25 the register of said peripheral device by effecting the movement of said icon between said system window and

said favorite window which are dividedly displayed by
said system displaying step.

46. The information processing method according
5 to claim 45, further comprising judging step for
judging whether said driver setting information for a
driver of said icon has been already registered in its
own information processing apparatus during the
movement of said icon by said instructing step, wherein
10 said install controlling step acquires said driver
setting information which should be installed from said
external device to execute the install processing of
said driver, when it is determined by said judging step
that said driver setting information has not been
15 registered.

47. The information processing method according
to claim 46, wherein said install controlling step uses
said registered driver setting information to execute
20 said install processing of said driver, when it is
determined by said judging step that said driver
setting information has been already registered.

48. The information processing method according
25 to claim 43, wherein said system displaying step
identifies the display mode of an icon regarding an
installed device between said system window and said

favorite window which are separately displayed after completion of install by said install controlling step, and displays the thus identified display mode.

5 49. The information processing method according to claim 43, further comprising writing step for writing positional information of an icon displayed in said favorite window into storing step,

10 said first system displaying step arranging and displaying said icon on the basis of said positional information stored in said storing step.

15 50. The information processing method according to claim 45, wherein said instructing step can instruct, by drag and drop, the movement of said icon between said system window and said favorite window which are dividedly displayed.

20 51. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for communicating with an external device through a network, said program comprising:

 device information acquiring step for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on said network from said external device;

25 system display controlling step for displaying, on a display section, an overall system condition of said

peripheral device shared on said network and a system
condition of a user network of a peripheral device
arbitrarily selected from said overall system condition
together with icons by a user interface in such a
5 manner that these conditions can be identified, on the
basis of said device information acquired from said
external device by said device information acquiring
step;

10 instructing step for instructing to register said
peripheral device in said user network; and

install controlling step for executing the install
processing of a driver for said peripheral device, when
register of said peripheral device to said user network
is newly instructed by said instructing step.

15 52. The computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 51, wherein said system display controlling
step dividedly displays a system window for displaying
said overall system condition and a favorite window for
20 displaying said system condition of said user network.

53. The computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 52, wherein said favorite window has the icons
of peripheral devices arranged around an icon of its
25 own information processing apparatus.

54. The computer-readable memory medium according

to claim 52, wherein said instructing step instructs the register of said peripheral device by effecting the movement of said icon between said system window and said favorite window which are dividedly displayed by said system displaying step.

55. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 54, further comprising judging step for judging whether said driver setting information for a driver of said icon has been already registered in its own information processing apparatus during the movement of said icon by said instructing step, wherein

said install controlling step acquires said driver setting information which should be installed from said external device to execute the install processing of said driver, when it is determined by said judging step that said driver setting information has not been registered.

56. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 55, wherein said install controlling step uses said registered driver setting information to execute said install processing of said driver, when it is determined by said judging step that said driver setting information has been already registered.

57. The computer-readable memory medium according

to claim 52, wherein said system displaying step identifies the display mode of an icon regarding an installed device between said system window and said favorite window which are separately displayed after
5 completion of install by said install controlling step, and displays the thus identified display mode.

58. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 52, further comprising writing step for
10 writing positional information of an icon displayed in said favorite window into storing step,

said first system displaying step arranging and displaying said icon on the basis of said positional information stored in said storing step.
15

59. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 54, wherein said instructing step can instruct, by drag and drop, the movement of said icon between said system window and said favorite window
20 which are dividedly displayed.

60. A program for communicating with an external device through a network, said program comprising:

device information acquiring step for acquiring
25 the device information of a peripheral device shared on said network from said external device;

system display controlling step for displaying, on
a display section, an overall system condition of said
peripheral device shared on said network and a system
condition of a user network of a peripheral device
5 arbitrarily selected from said overall system condition
together with icons by a user interface in such a
manner that these conditions can be identified, on the
basis of said device information acquired from said
external device by said device information acquiring
10 step;

instructing step for instructing to register said
peripheral device in said user network; and

install controlling step for executing the install
processing of a driver for said peripheral device, when
15 register of said peripheral device to said user network
is newly instructed by said instructing step.

61. The program according to claim 60, wherein
said system display controlling step dividedly displays
20 a system window for displaying said overall system
condition and a favorite window for displaying said
system condition of said user network.

62. The program according to claim 61, wherein
25 said favorite window has the icons of peripheral
devices arranged around an icon of its own information
processing apparatus.

63. The program according to claim 61, wherein
said instructing step instructs the register of said
peripheral device by effecting the movement of said
icon between said system window and said favorite
5 window which are dividedly displayed by said system
displaying step.

64. The program according to claim 63, further
comprising judging step for judging whether said driver
10 setting information for a driver of said icon has been
already registered in its own information processing
apparatus during the movement of said icon by said
instructing step, wherein

said install controlling step acquires said driver
15 setting information which should be installed from said
external device to execute the install processing of
said driver, when it is determined by said judging step
that said driver setting information has not been
registered.

20

65. The program according to claim 64, wherein
said install controlling step uses said registered
driver setting information to execute said install
processing of said driver, when it is determined by
25 said judging step that said driver setting information
has been already registered.

66. The program according to claim 61, wherein
said system displaying step identifies the display mode
of an icon regarding an installed device between said
system window and said favorite window which are
5 separately displayed after completion of install by
said install controlling step, and displays the thus
identified display mode.

67. The program according to claim 61, further
10 comprising writing step for writing positional
information of an icon displayed in said favorite
window into storing step,

said first system displaying step arranging and
displaying said icon on the basis of said positional
15 information stored in said storing step.

68. The program according to claim 63, wherein
said instructing step can instruct, by drag and drop,
the movement of said icon between said system window
20 and said favorite window which are dividedly displayed.

69. An information processing apparatus for
communicating with an external device through a
network, comprising:
25 recognizing means for recognizing the version
information of a driver for a peripheral device
incorporated in said information processing apparatus;

acquiring means for acquiring the version information of a driver for a peripheral device shared on said network;

5 specifying means for specifying a peripheral device, whose driver should be updated, incorporated in said information processing apparatus; and

10 updating means for updating said driver for said peripheral device specified by said specifying means on the basis of said version information of said driver acquired by said acquiring means and said version information of said driver recognized by said recognizing means.

15 70. The information processing apparatus according to claim 69, further comprising comparing means for comparing said version information recognized by said recognizing means with said version information acquired by said acquiring means, wherein

20 said updating means updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing means that said version information acquired by said acquiring means is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing means.

25

71. The information processing apparatus according to claim 69, wherein said updating means

acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of a driver which should be updated, and then updates said driver.

5 72. The information processing apparatus according to claim 69, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting said version information and said driver setting information of said updated driver in order to register them in said external device, when
10 said driver for a peripheral device incorporated in said information processing apparatus is updated.

 73. The information processing apparatus according to claim 69, further comprising:
15 device information acquiring means for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on said network from said external device; and
 system display controlling means for displaying, on a display section, a system window for displaying an
20 overall system condition of said peripheral device shared on said network and a favorite window for displaying a system condition of a user network of a peripheral device arbitrarily selected from said
 overall system condition together with icons by a user
25 interface in such a manner that these windows can be identified, on the basis of said device information acquired from said external device by said device

information acquiring means, wherein

said updating means execute updating processing of drivers for all the peripheral devices in said favorite windows by one operation instruction.

5

74. An information processing method for communicating with an external device through a network, comprising:

10 recognizing step for recognizing the version information of a driver for a peripheral device incorporated in said information processing apparatus;

acquiring step for acquiring the version information of a driver for a peripheral device shared on said network;

15 specifying step for specifying a peripheral device, whose driver should be updated, incorporated in said information processing apparatus; and

20 updating step for updating said driver for said peripheral device specified by said specifying step on the basis of said version information of said driver acquired by said acquiring step and said version information of said driver recognized by said recognizing step.

25 75. The information processing method according to claim 74, further comprising comparing step for comparing said version information recognized by said

recognizing step with said version information acquired by said acquiring step, wherein

5 said updating step updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing step that said version information acquired by said acquiring step is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing step.

10 76. The information processing method according to claim 74, wherein said updating step acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of a driver which should be updated, and then updates said driver.

15 77. The information processing method according to claim 74, further comprising transmitting step for transmitting said version information and said driver setting information of said updated driver in order to register them in said external device, when said driver for a peripheral device incorporated in said information processing apparatus is updated.

25 78. The information processing method according to claim 74, further comprising:

device information acquiring step for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on

said network from said external device; and

system display controlling step for displaying, on
a display section, a system window for displaying an
overall system condition of said peripheral device
5 shared on said network and a favorite window for
displaying a system condition of a user network of a
peripheral device arbitrarily selected from said
overall system condition together with icons by a user
interface in such a manner that these windows can be
10 identified, on the basis of said device information
acquired from said external device by said device
information acquiring step, wherein

said updating step execute updating processing of
drivers for all the peripheral devices in said favorite
15 windows by one operation instruction.

79. A computer-readable memory medium which
stores a program for communicating with an external
device through a network, said program comprising:

20 recognizing step for recognizing the version
information of a driver for a peripheral device
incorporated in said information processing apparatus;

acquiring step for acquiring the version
information of a driver for a peripheral device shared
25 on said network;

specifying step for specifying a peripheral

device, whose driver should be updated, incorporated in said information processing apparatus; and

5 updating step for updating said driver for said peripheral device specified by said specifying step on the basis of said version information of said driver acquired by said acquiring step and said version information of said driver recognized by said recognizing step.

10 80. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 79, further comprising comparing step for comparing said version information recognized by said recognizing step with said version information acquired by said acquiring step, wherein

15 said updating step updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing step that said version information acquired by said acquiring step is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing
20 step.

81. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 79, wherein said updating step acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of
25 a driver which should be updated, and then updates said driver.

82. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 79, further comprising transmitting step for transmitting said version information and said driver setting information of said updated driver in order to register them in said external device, when said driver for a peripheral device incorporated in said information processing apparatus is updated.

83. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 79, further comprising:

device information acquiring step for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on said network from said external device; and

system display controlling step for displaying, on a display section, a system window for displaying an overall system condition of said peripheral device shared on said network and a favorite window for displaying a system condition of a user network of a peripheral device arbitrarily selected from said overall system condition together with icons by a user interface in such a manner that these windows can be identified, on the basis of said device information acquired from said external device by said device information acquiring step, wherein

said updating step execute updating processing of drivers for all the peripheral devices in said favorite windows by one operation instruction.

84. A program for communicating with an external device through a network, said program comprising:

recognizing step for recognizing the version information of a driver for a peripheral device

5 incorporated in said information processing apparatus;

acquiring step for acquiring the version information of a driver for a peripheral device shared on said network;

10 specifying step for specifying a peripheral device, whose driver should be updated, incorporated in said information processing apparatus; and

15 updating step for updating said driver for said peripheral device specified by said specifying step on the basis of said version information of said driver acquired by said acquiring step and said version information of said driver recognized by said recognizing step.

20 85. The program according to claim 84, further comprising comparing step for comparing said version information recognized by said recognizing step with said version information acquired by said acquiring step, wherein

25 said updating step updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing step that said version information

acquired by said acquiring step is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing step.

5 86. The program according to claim 84, wherein said updating step acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of a driver which should be updated, and then updates said driver.

10 87. The program according to claim 84, further comprising transmitting step for transmitting said version information and said driver setting information of said updated driver in order to register them in said external device, when said driver for a peripheral
15 device incorporated in said information processing apparatus is updated.

88. The program according to claim 84, further comprising:

20 device information acquiring step for acquiring the device information of a peripheral device shared on said network from said external device; and

 system display controlling step for displaying, on a display section, a system window for displaying an
25 overall system condition of said peripheral device shared on said network and a favorite window for displaying a system condition of a user network of a

peripheral device arbitrarily selected from said
overall system condition together with icons by a user
interface in such a manner that these windows can be
identified, on the basis of said device information
5 acquired from said external device by said device
information acquiring step, wherein

said updating step execute updating processing of
drivers for all the peripheral devices in said favorite
windows by one operation instruction.

10

89. An information processing apparatus for
communicating with an external device through a
network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving update notification
15 including the version information of a driver for a
peripheral device from said external device;

recognizing means for recognizing the version
information of a driver for a peripheral device
incorporated in said information processing apparatus;
20 and

updating means for updating said driver for said
peripheral device specified by said specifying means on
the basis of said version information of said driver
whose update notification has been received by said
25 receiving means and said version information of said
incorporated driver.

90. The information processing apparatus according to claim 89, further comprising comparing means for comparing said version information recognized by said recognizing means with said version information acquired by said acquiring means, wherein

5 said updating means updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing means that said version information acquired by said acquiring means is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing means.

91. The information processing apparatus according to claim 89, wherein said updating means acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of a driver which should be updated, and then updates said driver.

92. The information processing apparatus according to claim 90, further comprising judging means for judging whether said driver for said peripheral device whose update notification has been transmitted from said external device is incorporated in said information processing apparatus, wherein

25 said comparing means compares respective version information, when it is determined by said judging means that said driver is incorporated in said

information processing apparatus.

93. The information processing apparatus according to claim 92, wherein said updating means does
5 not execute said updating processing of said driver, when it is determined by said judging means that said driver is not incorporated in said information processing apparatus.

10 94. An information processing method for communicating with an external device through a network, comprising:

receiving step for receiving update notification including the version information of a driver for a
15 peripheral device from said external device;

recognizing step for recognizing the version information of a driver for a peripheral device incorporated in said information processing apparatus;
and

20 updating step for updating said driver for said peripheral device specified by said specifying step on the basis of said version information of said driver whose update notification has been received by said receiving step and said version information of said
25 incorporated driver.

95. The information processing method according

to claim 94, further comprising comparing step for comparing said version information recognized by said recognizing step with said version information acquired by said acquiring step, wherein

5 said updating step updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing step that said version information acquired by said acquiring step is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing
10 step.

96. The information processing method according to claim 94, wherein said updating step acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of
15 a driver which should be updated, and then updates said driver.

97. The information processing method according to claim 95, further comprising judging step for
20 judging whether said driver for said peripheral device whose update notification has been transmitted from said external device is incorporated in said information processing apparatus, wherein

 said comparing step compares respective version
25 information, when it is determined by said judging step that said driver is incorporated in said information processing apparatus.

98. The information processing method according to claim 97, wherein said updating step does not execute said updating processing of said driver, when it is determined by said judging step that said driver is not incorporated in said information processing apparatus.

99. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for communicating with an external device through a network, said program comprising:

receiving step for receiving update notification including the version information of a driver for a peripheral device from said external device;

recognizing step for recognizing the version information of a driver for a peripheral device incorporated in said information processing apparatus; and

updating step for updating said driver for said peripheral device specified by said specifying step on the basis of said version information of said driver whose update notification has been received by said receiving step and said version information of said incorporated driver.

100. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 99, further comprising comparing

step for comparing said version information recognized by said recognizing step with said version information acquired by said acquiring step, wherein

5 said updating step updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing step that said version information acquired by said acquiring step is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing step.

10

101. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 99, wherein said updating step acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of a driver which should be updated, and
15 then updates said driver.

15

102. The computer-readable memory medium according to claim 100, further comprising judging step for judging whether said driver for said peripheral
20 device whose update notification has been transmitted from said external device is incorporated in said information processing apparatus, wherein

20

 said comparing step compares respective version information, when it is determined by said judging step
25 that said driver is incorporated in said information processing apparatus.

25

103. The computer-readable memory medium
according to claim 102, wherein said updating step does
not execute said updating processing of said driver,
when it is determined by said judging step that said
5 driver is not incorporated in said information
processing apparatus.

104. A program for communicating with an external
device through a network, said program comprising:
10 receiving step for receiving update notification
including the version information of a driver for a
peripheral device from said external device;
recognizing step for recognizing the version
information of a driver for a peripheral device
15 incorporated in said information processing apparatus;
and
updating step for updating said driver for said
peripheral device specified by said specifying step on
the basis of said version information of said driver
20 whose update notification has been received by said
receiving step and said version information of said
incorporated driver.

105. The program according to claim 104, further
25 comprising comparing step for comparing said version
information recognized by said recognizing step with

said version information acquired by said acquiring step, wherein

5 said updating step updates a driver for a corresponding peripheral device, when it is shown by said comparing step that said version information acquired by said acquiring step is newer than said version information recognized by said recognizing step.

10 106. The program according to claim 104, wherein said updating step acquires, from said external device, the driver setting information of a driver which should be updated, and then updates said driver.

15 107. The program according to claim 105, further comprising judging step for judging whether said driver for said peripheral device whose update notification has been transmitted from said external device is incorporated in said information processing apparatus,
20 wherein

 said comparing step compares respective version information, when it is determined by said judging step that said driver is incorporated in said information processing apparatus.

25

 108. The program according to claim 107, wherein said updating step does not execute said updating

[illegible]